advantageous to them. Similarly, procurement of rice from rice millers/ dealers under a statutory levy depends on the quantum of paddy purchased by them. As such, no targets are fixed for procurement of rice.

A quantity of 83.01 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured as on 22.11.2002 in the current Kharif Marketing Season 2002-03.

(b) State Warehousing Corporations (CWC) and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have been requested to create additional storage capacity to the extent of 89.77 lakh MTs under the 7 year guarantee scheme in the major procuring States. This additional capacity is under creation since 2000-01.

Expenditure on buffer stocking of foodgrains

937. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that government spends more on buffer stocking of foodgrains annually than its entire plan and non-plan outlay on agriculture, rural development, irrigation and flood control; and

(b) the action proposed to improve upon the inefficient food management system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir. The annual expenditure on buffer stocking of foodgrains is less than the entire plan and non-plan outlay on agriculture, rural development, irrigation and flood control; and

(b) Food management basically comprises procurement of foodgrains at the Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government, maintaining adequate buffer stocks of foodgrains and distribution of foodgrains to consumers at the affordable rates under the Public Distribution System (PDS). Efforts are continuously being made to improve the efficiency of the operations under procurement, movement, storage and distribution of foodgrains.